



The Ames Intelligencer

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Summer 1997

Independence Day Always A Cause For Celebration

by Kathy Svec

The festive 1997 July 4th Celebration hosted by the Ames Jaycees at Brookside Park featured games of all kinds, displays by local organizations, an array of foods and beverages, entertainment on several stages, and the traditional finale of fireworks. Just how did the 1997 celebration stack up to Ames 4ths of the past?

1900

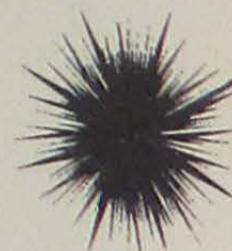
The Ames Intelligencer reported that crowd at the celebration in 1900 was well-dressed and "orderly to a praiseworthy degree". Although there weren't as many in attendance as the year before, organizers were pleased and some-what surprised by the crowd, which came out to celebrate despite rumors of a small pox outbreak.

In the morning, the Ames band played, and the Congregational Church choir "rendered a choice selection" of patriotic songs. The Honorable Charles Ballerich of Des Moines delivered an eloquent and thoughtful address, and Miss Buelah Bingham read the Declaration of Independence. In the afternoon, there were sporting contests, and the 51st Iowa Minstrels provided entertainment "of a satisfactory character" while Charles Barney, the Des Moines strong man, exhibited athletic feats and presented a muscle program. Fireworks completed the activities.

1910

Many Ames residents attended the Fourth festivities in Story City, since, as the paper noted "When Story City celebrates the 4th of July, she is the center of the universe." Ten thousand people thronged the merry-go-round, concessions and sporting events, but hushed when the program under the big tent began, accompanied by a "magnificent" brass band and chorus made up of the city's best singers.

Rev. Dr. George D. Crissman of Ames gave the address, which the paper noted was "clear and comprehensible reasoning filled with historical truths and an occasional illustrative story or suggestive piece of poetry". Gen. George



Rush Lincoln delivered a talk on the history of the American flag.

The addresses were followed by a parade which was a "revelation to the visitors" and featured floats, and automobiles and carriages by the hundreds. Ames sent up a special train of eight coaches in addition to many carriages and automobiles.

Sporting events started after the parade, including two ball games, one between Ellsworth and Roland, ending 0 to 0 after 10 innings, the other handing Jewell a defeat by Story City, 13 to 4.

An evening concert was followed by fireworks. Of the whole day, the paper reported that "order was good and if there was any drunkenness, it was not seen by the public."

CELEBRATE JULY FOURTH AT DAYTON'S PARK

—(1 Mile East and 4 Miles North of Ames, Iowa)—

FREE ATTRACTIONS GALORE!

Webster City Municipal Band—25 Pieces
Featuring Xylophone — Singers — Solos — Duets!
Both day and night!

DANCE Afternoon and Evening

Carry Brothers and Their Orioles. A fine Orchestra of Iowa State College, will furnish the music both afternoon and evening. They are sure a fine band and you will like them.

FIREWORKS!

A GORGEOUS DISPLAY! Both Day and Night Fireworks. We think we have established a reputation in the past 15 years for our fireworks. There we hope to be the best of all. BEAUTIFUL 80-ACRE PICNIC GROUNDS! Fine picnic grounds with beautiful shade for everyone. A real 80-acre playground.

ATHLETIC EVENTS AT 3:30 P. M.

There will be sports galore for boys and girls, and ladies and gentlemen, with GOOD CASH PRIZES for all.

BOATING AND BATHING—The pleasure supreme! A fine, safe, concrete swimming pool. Fine lake for boating.

CONCESSIONS OF ALL KINDS for your enjoyment. You can even get your fortune told. Do not miss them.

POPULAR PRICE, CAFE AND ICE CREAM PARLOR. Your wants will be taken care of by courteous people.

ROLLER SKATING RINK. Roller skating both day and night. Tom Anfinson has charge of the rink again this year, so that insures it being run just right.

General Admission 35c—Children Under 10 Years Free
NO CHARGE FOR AUTOS—And remember the many FREE attractions after entering the gate.

A. L. DAYTON, Owner

1930

Continued from page one

1920

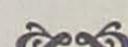
The headline in the July 6 story read, "Ames Celebrates Real Wet Fourth". Despite heavy rain, the paper reported that Dayton's Park, Young's Park and the other "resorts" of the county were full for the holiday weekend, and that Roman candles and sky rockets "defied the falling drops and burst just as loudly as ever."

The rain did cause immense disappointment to the Shriners' Auto Club of Za-Ga-Zig Temple. They planned for over 5000 members from all over the state to converge on the Iowa State campus in their cars for "a July 4th picnic and jollification". But alas, the rain rendered the roads impassable. Though a number of people waited, they eventually concluded that there was "nothing doing". Ames citizens were consoled with the Shriners' plan to set a new date for later in the summer.

1930

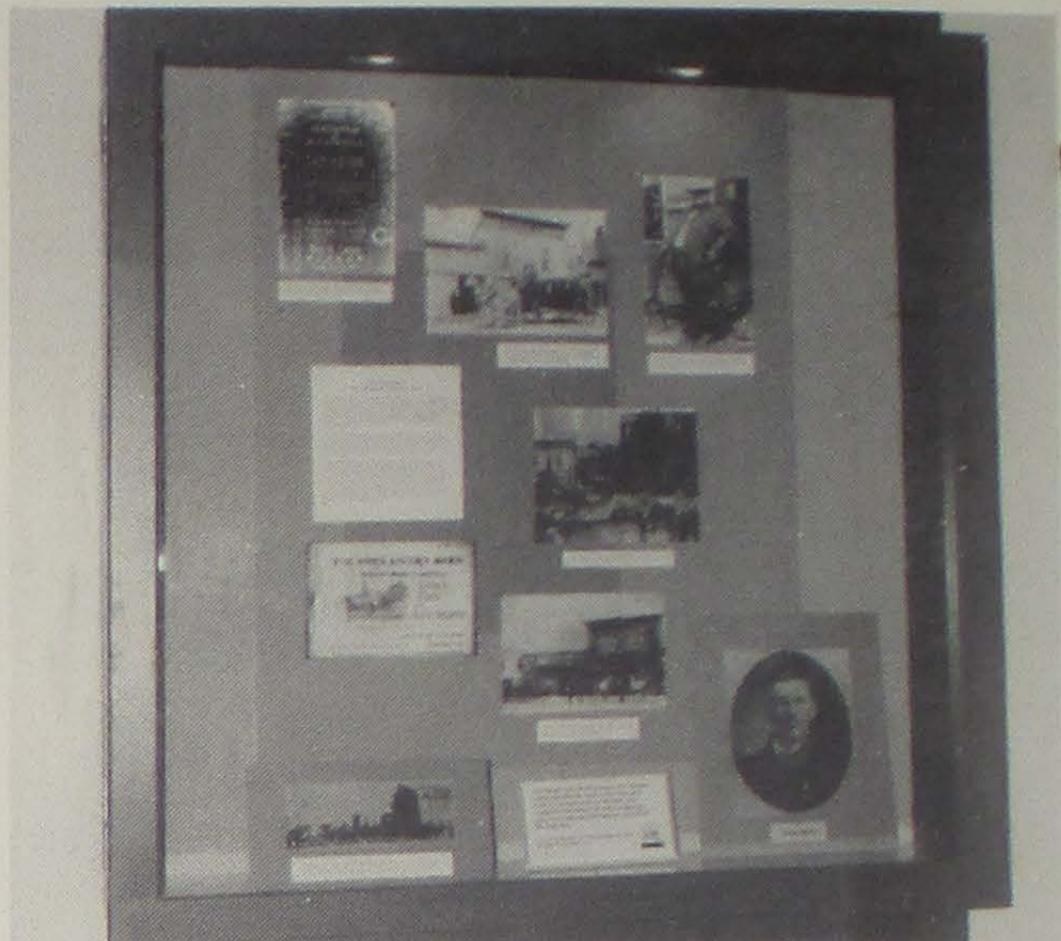
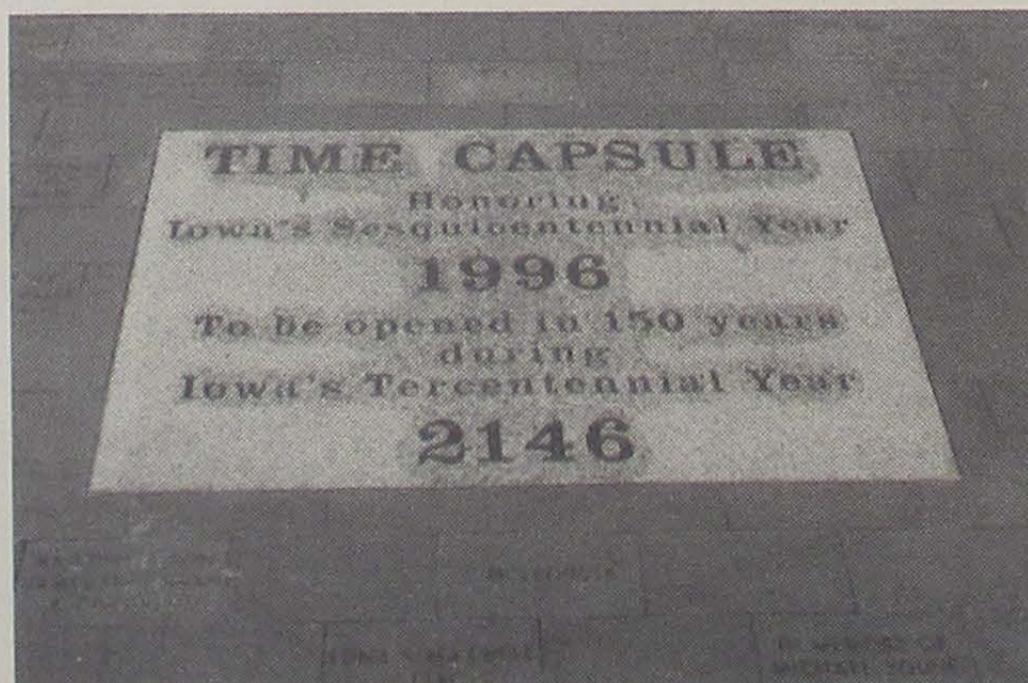
A morning downpour of rain again marred July 4th festivities, and the emerging sun made for a hot, sultry afternoon that rendered the day "uneventful", according to the paper. The only celebration was at Carr's Riverside swimming pool and the adjacent miniature golf course, where a large crowd gathered through the afternoon and evening. No liquor arrests were made, and "injuries were confined to cuts and bruises."

The largest crowd of the day were the 300 people who assembled at the Ames golf and country club for the annual flag tournament and fireworks. Story City again hosted 10,000 people at an I.O.O.F. picnic, parade, and program, where "splendid order was maintained". The annual holiday celebration in Sheldahl was attended by 8000 citizens.



New Time Capsule Dedicated July 14

1996 time capsule items gathered by the Association have been buried underneath the Family History Plaza at 5th and Kellogg, which was officially dedicated on July 14. Over 100 items were collected and placed in two watertight containers beneath a capstone. It is intended that the capsules be opened for Iowa's 300th birthday.



A display at North Grand Mall in March featured Ames livery businesses

Display of Plant Innovators Set

An exhibit featuring Louis Pammel, Ada Hayden and George W. Carver titled "Plant Innovators: Notable Horticulturists" will be featured in the display cases in the Ames Public Library lobby from October 1 - 31. The exhibit is one of a number of displays organized by AHA for display cases in public locations.



1915 Municipal Building Makes National Register

The 1915 Municipal Building at 5th and Kellogg is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Youth and Shelter Services of Ames, hired Des Moines historian, Will Page, to complete the research for the application, which was approved early this summer. A bronze plaque citing the listing will be installed in a prominent location. Prior to this, the 1915 Municipal Building was Ames first and only officially designated Local Landmark.

Announcing New AHA Board

The Ames Heritage Board welcomes four new members to three year terms: Peggy Baer, Don Beitz, Leonard Larson, Jerry Litzell.

They join continuing members Bill LaGrange, Kathy Svec, Sharon Wirth, Kay Beckett, Jack Adams, Rollie Struss, Willie Struss.

Thanks to Board Completing Service

The Association would like to recognize and thank these retiring Board members: Don Faas, Nancy Osborn Johnson, Lois Vohs, Dave Ballard Jr., Evie Thielen, Coleen Nutty.

F.T. Brown Receives Several Honors

On June 14, at the annual Des Moines conference of the State Historical Society, Farwell Brown was honored with the Petersen-Harlan Award, which recognizes contributions by individuals in the recording of local history. S.H.S. Chief, Tom Morain, wrote, "What I love about Farwell's stories is [his] love of writing them. He is a great storyteller first, but he researches his facts to get the story right. He shows you can do really good history on a local level. You are not a better historian because you write about bigger topics."

In a separate action, the Ames Public Library Trustees approved the naming of the library's auditorium "Farwell T. Brown Auditorium".



Bauge Home Transformation Continues

Efforts by Board members Rollie and Willie Struss, and Kay Beckett and her husband Roger have made notable changes in the interior of the Bauge log home. Covering plywood underlayment in the lean-to with proper flooring boards has begun to transform the kitchen area. Added security has been provided at both doors. Local contractor, Falls Millwork, has moved the loft steps back to their 1890-1910 location, and rebuilt walls in that area to further define the parent's bedroom and pantry.

In July, Saturday Morning Kiwanis volunteers scraped and painted the exterior of the log home with paint donated by Eldon and Marguerite Bauge. We would like to recognize and thank the following Kiwanis members: Floyd Manwiller, Don Hotchkiss, John Richard, Abe Epstein, Lowell Greiman, Don Erickson, Ron Horst, Mark Imerman, Paul Brackelsburg, Dick Pletcher, Tom Flack.



Installation of flooring in Bauge Log Home.

Ames: People, Parapets, Pediments And More

Take a class in Ames History for fun!

Taught by Sharon Wirth. Four weeks: Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, from 7:30-9pm. Registration \$21 at Octagon Center for the Arts, 5th & Douglas, 232-5331



Scraping and painting of exterior of Bauge Log Home.



Museum Planning Group Seeks Civic Partners/Collaborators

On June 21, 1997, the Association's museum planning group hosted a meeting with a number of Ames organizations, with the assistance of Catherine Reid Day, a consultant from Three Rivers Sourcework, Minneapolis.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibility of a collaboration or partnership with an existing organization in the development of the museum.

Attendees included: Ames Public Library, Octagon Center for the Arts, ACTORS, Ames Public Schools, Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau, ISU University Museums, Iowa Department of Transportation.

The results of the planning committee's work since it began in September 1994 was recapped. The group has educated themselves about museum planning, developed their thinking about preserving Ames history, and visited several museums or interviewed them by phone to gain information about successful programs and mistakes to avoid.

In April, a researcher conducted focus groups to gauge reactions to the group's museum concept from randomly selected Ames individuals. The responses were encouraging enough to proceed with the next step.

The idea to collaborate with an existing organization was presented at the very beginning of the planning process in 1994, and the "next step" was to explore it in more detail.

After the re-cap, a two-part discussion occurred. Those present shared the purpose and vision of each organization as a way to discover potential areas of cooperation. A discussion then followed concerning perceptions about the future of art, culture and history in Ames in the next 20 to 25 years.

The following questions were posed:

Can we go on as we have?

Can we keep adding more and more, especially when resources are limited?

Should the struggle to maintain our cultural organizations be so hard for those engaged in them?

Can we do something better, richer together?

At the end of the discussion, those present were invited to continue to explore the partner/ collaborator concept, and to express interest in a formal way by August 30th. A meeting will be planned in September or October.

At this meeting, several possible scenarios will be presented which may begin to more tangibly define the project and move it forward.



Ames Intelligencer
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Sharon Wirth, Jack Adams, Kay Beckett, Rollie Struss, Willie Struss,
Peggy Baer, Leonard Larson, Jerry Litzell, Don Beitz

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The Ames Heritage Association is a legally incorporated, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through educational publications, programs and displays. The Board meets the 3rd Monday of each month, September - June. Interested persons are welcome.

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The Ames Intelligencer is named after an early Ames newspaper and is published three time a year for Association members. Comments or questions may be directed to the Editor.